

Maria Theresa, Sister Isabella, and Sister Esther administrated at the new school which then had its first class of 81 students. The first school building was completed on November 2, 1955. The first class of students graduated in 1959. By 1960, the number of students swelled to 495. The staff continued to grow and formed a young, enthusiastic group who worked tirelessly to attain the highest standards, not only in the academic field, but also in athletics, music and other extracurricular activities. Identifying the need for values-based education for all young people, Providence began welcoming young men, as well as women, to the school in 1974.

Sr. Lucille Dean became the school's principal in 1986. Providence continued in the next few years to build on the tradition of excellence. Providence High School has received recognition throughout its history for its academic achievement. It was designated a Blue Ribbon School in 1997 and received accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1996. In 2001, the school opened the Fritz B. Burns Student Activity Center featuring a state-of-the-art gymnasium, weight room, exercise room, boys and girls locker rooms, and conference center. Providence has a proud history of carrying out its unique mission of education. The school continually strives for academic excellence and the total development of the individual.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Providence High School for 50 years of exemplary public service, and for its immense commitment to educating young people of all cultural and economic backgrounds for academic achievement, compassionate service, ethical standards, Christian leadership, global awareness, and life-long learning.

**TOM AND MARY ELLEN CODY
HONORED BY JUVENILE DIABETES
RESEARCH FOUNDATION AS
2005 CINCIANNATIANS OF THE
YEAR**

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom and Mary Ellen Cody, friends and constituents who on April 30, 2005 will be named 2005 Cincinnatians of the Year by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International is the central resource for information about type 1 juvenile diabetes, and raises funds to support research to find a cure for diabetes.

Tom and Mary Ellen are being honored for their extraordinary service to the Cincinnati community. They have been active members since they moved to our area in 1982, when Tom joined Federated Department Stores, Inc. Currently, Tom is vice chair of Federated with responsibility for legal and human resources, internal audit, external affairs, and the company's philanthropic activities. Prior to joining Federated, Tom was with Pan American World Airways, Inc. He serves on the Boards of Trustees of Xavier University, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Life Center, and the National Conference

for Community and Justice. In addition, he is a past chair of United Way of Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees. A native of New York City, Tom received a B.A. from Maryknoll College and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

Mary Ellen is a member of the boards of Dominican Community Services, 4Cs (Community Coordinated Child Care), Dress for Success Cincinnati, and Friends of the University of Cincinnati College—Conservatory of Music (CCM). She attended the College of Mount Saint Joseph.

The Codys have 4 children: Thomas, Jr., Mark, Anne, and Amy, and 7 grandchildren.

All of us in the greater Cincinnati area congratulate the Codys on their extraordinary community service, and on receiving this prestigious honor.

**FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ DANIEL
FERRER GARCÍA**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Daniel Ferrer García, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ferrer García is the regional coordinator for the Christian Liberation Movement in the province of Santiago. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who believes in the cause of freedom for the men and women of Cuba. Because of his steadfast belief in human liberty, and his constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, Mr. Ferrer García has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Ferrer García has been harassed and detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 2002, he was forced from a bus and beaten by the tyrant's thugs because of his activities and ideals. In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Ferrer García was arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

While confined in the inhuman horror of Castro's gulag, Mr. Ferrer García has been the constant target of abuse. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

On January 1, José Daniel Ferrer García reported serving 45 days in a punishment cell for protesting the suspension of correspondence and the delivery of food and medical supplies from his family. He did not receive food or water during the first 3 days of his confinement and slept on a cement floor. Authorities confiscated his Bible and prohibited any contact with other prisoners.

The same Country Report describes the true horrors of a punishment cell: "Prisoners sometimes were held in 'punishment cells,' which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet." This is in addition to the grotesque depravity of the gulag that also includes beatings, isolation, denial of medical treatment to detainees and sexual abuse.

Mr. Ferrer García is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Ferrer García, they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of José Daniel Ferrer García and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY
OF WEST BRANCH**

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a city. Tomorrow, the residents of West Branch, Michigan celebrate this great milestone.

The land that is now West Branch began as a timber town in 1875, blessed with a mixture of soft and hardwoods. As many timber towns dissolved with the depleting timber supply, the early community leaders of West Branch had the foresight to replenish the forests through a conservation plan funded through a timely oil boom that contributed greatly to the economy.

Located on the Michigan's largest railroad line, West Branch is roughly halfway between the southern State line and the Mackinac Bridge. Three old Native American Chippewa Trails that convened in West Branch transformed into what is now known as highways, M-76, M-30 and M-55 making that area a major hub for the increasing transportation.

It was in 1905 that the State of Michigan recognized West Branch for 30 years of solid growth by granting them incorporation as a City. The State further noted that the area's escalating commerce in the farm industry also attributed to the cause for incorporation. Agriculture, still today, remains the area's largest economic resource.

Through the years, the community has dramatically evolved. In the 1930s and 40s West Branch grew its recreational attractions by establishing Trout Festivals and Alpine Ski facilities as well as promoting its suitability for hunting, fishing and agriculture. In the 1950s and 60s the City focused on highway and land development that brought the most famous highway in the state, I-75, directly through their emerging community. During the 70s, 80s and 90s the city experienced an economic boom and acquired two industrial parks. One of the parks was bestowed a "smiley-face" water tower, which is now the trademark of the City. The other, eventually became home to Tolfree Memorial Hospital, West Branch Regional Medical Center and the state-of-the art Seaton Cancer Center.

The West Branch of today, with a population of 1,924, serves as the County seat for Ogemaw County. This fast growing community's expanding commerce, with its own Community Airport and bustling outdoor shopping